

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, August 29, 1868.

Our Mining Prospects.

It is gratifying to turn from the uninviting subject of the country's wrongs and grievances to take a passing glance at the improving condition of our mines; every week, for some time past, has shown a slight improvement in the report of mining operations; and this coming, as it does, from the upper country in the very height of the mining season, shows an activity and life amongst the mining claims that is a decided improvement upon the last few years. True it is that there is not constant employment for hired labor to an unlimited extent, nor are the wages what they were five and six years ago; but during the whole of this summer, there has been no lack of employment for those who would work well and steadily. It is a notable fact that old ground, and abandoned creeks are now being worked, and prospected with success. We quite agree with our Cariboo contemporaries in attributing much of the evil that has of late years overshadowed our mining camps, to the "very temporary and superficial manner in which prospecting has been done." Want of capital may be fairly added to the want of proper mining knowledge and skill, as one of the drawbacks tending very much to increase the cost and prolong the time in gaining that experience of which the persevering and successful miners will ultimately reap the profit. Great have been the disappointments which have befallen those who time after time have adventured in joint-stock companies, whose prospects at the outset seem, even to bystanders, fair and promising; nay more, whose want of success, now that we calmly look back upon the brilliant prospects that seemed almost within reach at the outset, the brief struggle to "catch the lead," and the heavy outlay, which, in dozens of cases, results in loss to all concerned, is a marvel, such as is only heard of in the mining camp. Such disappointments, however, are but a part of the miner's existence. The actual miner, he who prospects for gold in person, rarely becomes a rich man. The speculator, he who at a distance watches his chance, and invests his capital upon the report of a third party, who is interested always in making the best of that which he desires to see taken up, becomes rich or fails; according to chance, after a similar manner as he who seeks his living upon the stock exchange, or in any other speculative mode of existence. Experience has taught us in this Colony, not to trust to the fairest prospects. So much of the actual mining has to be left to agents that it becomes impossible to trust in promises. Repeated failures are of course most discouraging, and it is always a satisfaction to watch the first glimmer of returning confidence after a season of mishaps. The latest reports from Cariboo, do show signs of improvement; claims which have been worked for six years, on Conklin Gulch, without success, are now, we are told, beginning to pay, and there are similar cases on Keithley and Grouse Creeks, of claims, which, after being worked for some time, were abandoned, and are now paying. The Grouse Creek Bed-rock Flume Company is, we are glad to observe, paying a dividend which although not large, may be taken we hope as an earnest of better things to come. If the more healthy tone that seems to be spread over mining matters just now, leads only to a more thorough system of prospecting the numerous creeks of Cariboo, practical good must result to the whole Colony. That there is abundance of gold in British Columbia, is beyond doubt, and everything that will tend to decrease the difficulties of getting it out will add to our prosperity, through good seasons and bad, through times of activity and depression, it has never been doubted that the gold is there, although the difficulties of getting it out have at times appeared almost insurmountable. Perhaps it is fortunate

that mining excitements are never of a long duration, or their effect upon the prosperity of a Colony would be more deleterious than they generally are. It cannot be denied that the reaction consequent upon the excitement of 1862 has kept this Colony back more than any inherent weakness, or want of the element of prosperity in the country itself. In 1862, too much could hardly be given for town lots; what a change was brought about in four years; but who amongst those who have watched the progress of events since 1858, can deny that every element of prosperity that could be fairly reckoned as existing in 1862 is to the full as apparent, and as much within our grasp now as then; nay more, with the prospect of a form of government that will be acceptable to the people, almost within our reach, are we not in reality better off than in our whole previous existence as a Colony we ever have been?

Monday, Aug 24 Cricket.

Below will be found the score of the return match at Beacon Hill, on Saturday, between the married and single, which has excited an interest in the community. This time the bachelors won easily, the married ones worked bravely. In the first innings, the single fielded badly, but in the second no fault could be found. The bowling all day was splendid, especially in the last innings by Messrs Guerra and Fere, taking all the wickets of the married men down for 18 runs. The batting on both sides was below the usual mark. There were three very fine catches made by Messrs Howard, Woodward, and Bacon, respectively. The final match will be played next Saturday.

Table with columns for FIRST INNINGS, SECOND INNINGS, and MARRIED. Lists names and scores for various players like Fere, Howard, Bacon, etc.

The steamer Emma arrived from the whaling grounds at the close of the week, and will return in a few days. From a conversation had with parties on board, in reference to the probability of success, we are glad to learn they speak very confidently. The difficulty at present is simply in the explosive rockets with which the fish are struck. On reaching the water, instead of going down into the water and striking the fish deep enough to kill, they glance on the surface and strike too high. As the fish do not rise much above the surface, this defect has to be remedied. They report the fish numerous and large, some of them from sixty to eighty feet long, which will yield oil amply remunerative. In the winter it is said a still larger fish come down from the North. When the rocket is remedied, fear need hardly be entertained of failure.

THE AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION.—The bills of the forthcoming Exhibition, which is announced for the 8th October, are out, and give the prizes, which range from \$1 to \$10, to be applied to subjects of any class possessing the most merit. The sections embrace horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, field produce, vegetables, fruits, dairy produce, poultry, &c. The showyard on Cook street used for a similar purpose on a former occasion, is again selected as being commodious and well shaded.

POLICE COURT.—The case of supposed incendiarism of Bailey's barn, was heard before this court on Saturday. Considering the grievous nature of the offense, it appears, really a most cruel and unwarrantable arrest. There was not a shadow of evidence or suspicion against the person charged with the offense, and who was proved to have slept in town on the night of the fire, and had not left View street at the time of its occurrence.

THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT BAKER REACHED AT LAST.—Mr. Coleman, of this city, has written us from Sehome, W. T. August 20th, detailing the interesting news of the successful ascent to the summit of Mount Baker. The party was absent from Sehome 14 days. Mr. Ogilvy, of Victoria, one of the party, returned yesterday by canoe from Whatcom. In to-morrow's issue, particulars of the feat will be given.

CONFEDERATION.—A message was received on Saturday by a gentleman of this city, from the Hon. S. L. Tilley, C. B. Ottawa, to the effect that matters tending towards Confederation were progressing satisfactorily. Mr. D. W. Higgins, of the Colonist, was at Ottawa, and intended returning to Victoria, towards the close of next month.

SALE THIS DAY.—We beg to call public attention of city and country buyers to the sale at Messrs J. P. Davies' rooms to-day, at 11 o'clock. The goods offered—all kinds of American clothing, staple and furnishing goods, boots and shoes, hats, caps, &c. are of fine character, and will be sold on a liberal credit.

DEATHS.—We are sorry to have to record in our issue to-day, three cases recently of mortality amongst children in this city. Some of the deaths arose from putrid sore throat, a disease which medical men say is akin to diphtheria. Other similar instances, we have heard of, are progressing satisfactorily towards recovery.

FROM NEW WESTMINSTER.—The steamer Enterprise arrived on Saturday afternoon with a few passengers. The Governor and Mrs. Seymour, were to honor a picnic of the Hyack Fire Co. which is announced to be held on Pitt Lake, to-morrow.

COMING OUT.—By a telegram received in town on Saturday, we learn that the Hon. H. D. Lascelles and J. J. Southgate, Esq., were in New York, and intended starting from thence (overland) for this city on the 2nd of September.

ACCIDENT.—On Saturday Mr. Murray's horse ran away in Bequimalt, with his bakery cart very severely injuring Mr. Patterson and doing no little damage to the vehicle.

THE ASSIZES.—A Court of Assize will be held in this city on the 2nd proximo before Chief Justice Needham.

Editorial Correspondence—No. 6.

NEW YORK, July 6, 1868. The heat of the last three days has been perfectly unendurable. The sufferings of persons exposed to the rays of the sun have in many cases proved fatal; but the torture, trials and temptations of the sweltering democracy, crowded, packed and struggling in the Convention at Tammany Hall, have been dreadful. To-day it was a touch of Tophet in the Hall, and I fear the worst is yet to come. The mercury in this variable climate passed over wide thermometer ranges in brief space of time. Rapid changes occur in both the rise and the fall of the sensitive indicator. In four days of last week there was a difference of 33 1/2 degrees, the minimum being 61 degrees at 3 o'clock on Tuesday morning, and the maximum 95 1/2 degrees at half-past 2 on Saturday afternoon. This heated term has disturbed the Gulf Stream theory, the protracted cold weather of last spring was accounted for by the movement of the Gulf Stream some two or three hundred miles to the eastward. New York was doomed to perpetual chills and dampness. Like all previous weather prophecies the Gulf Stream theory has been dispelled, and the climate has retrieved its reputation for variability, and after an Arctic winter, and an Alaskan Spring is serving up a tropical summer.

The celebration of the Fourth of July, on Saturday, was accompanied by the usual waste of gunpowder and consumption of grog. But the number of casualties and outrages were less than common, although several murders occurred in this city and environs. One of the most remarkable occurrences of the day was the accidental shooting of a young German by a fellow countryman in Brooklyn and the suicide by drowning, of the involuntary homicide immediately after the death of his victim. Another shocking occurrence in the same city is recorded. An old man invited two young male friends to spend the evening with him. The guests came late and under the influence of wine. A heated altercation soon arose with their host, and presently one of the guests seized a pair of scissors and stabbed the old man in the side, killing him instantly. The murdered man was 65 years of age. The display of fireworks at night was very fine, but at one point the effect was spoiled by the introduction of a piece, which in letters of blue and green fire, advised the people to "buy none but 'S' tobacco." The public are naturally enraged at this unwarrantable liberty, and charge the Committee and the pyrotechnist with having been bribed to permit the impertinence. There was a fine display of military during the day, prominent among which was a regiment of Fenians. These fine fellows, however, appear to have arrived at the end of their tether. They attract no attention now, except from the quarrelling and bickering among themselves, and as an order they are moribund. The other day Colonel O'Neill, the new President of the Irish Republic, made complaint before a Justice that the Editor of an Irish American paper was inciting him to create a breach of the peace. The editor was arrested, when it appearing that

they had merely criticised the President's official acts, they were discharged.

The New York Democratic Convention is still in session. Nothing can be gleaned from their action thus far, to indicate with any degree of certainty who will be the nominee. Pendleton, a peace Democrat and repudiator of the national debt, is ahead in the balloting, but the Convention having adopted a platform with a non-repudiation plank in it, it is improbable that he will succeed. Great interest is manifested in the doings of this Convention, the impression being general, that should the Democrats nominate a good man he will be elected. Grant is unpopular because the people fear that he and his party aim to change the system of Government into a military despotism, and because the expense of the Government is still largely in excess of its income.

The New York Herald is responsible for the following election "skit."—There was a meeting of the Pendletonians the other evening. One of the unwashed cried out as the distinguished advocates of the popular Ohioan advanced on the stage—"Wash me clean! wash me clean!" "Shut up," cried a suppresser of turbulence, "you appear to be very dirty. Don't disturb the meeting." "Wash me clean, wash me clean!" vehemently and persistently exclaimed the ardent Pendletonian. "Put him out!" "Put him out!" A disturbance was brewing. At this juncture, a mild and benevolent looking gentleman, with a high forehead, normal moustache and unburnt looks, came forward and appealed for a moment's silence, which was accorded. He said—"No doubt the audience labors under a mistake. My jubilant friend has recognized in me an old friend. His cries mean no derision to the assemblage nor insult to those grave old codgers on the platform. I am familiarly known at home in Cincinnati as 'Wash. McLean' and I flatter myself I am something of a clean shipp champion of the illustrious son of Ohio. Then there were three rousing cheers for Wash McLean and three more with a tiger for the man he celebrated.

The Schutzenfest having swallowed its last bottle of Rhine wine and glass of lager, eaten its final pretzel, bit its ultimate bull's eye, distributed its prizes and dined out its concluding ball, the daily journals are counting its cost and profit, and summing up its successes and failures. They do not fail to recognize its excellent features of order, good humor, and hearty enjoyment, sought by substantial means, rather than the methods of sham and costly show. But they do not overlook the serious drawbacks in bad management, which resulted in the killing of several people. Had these casualties been unavoidable accidents, they would have been permitted to pass with nothing more than the expressions of regret elicited by inevitable misfortunes. But they cannot be so classed. Ordinary foresight might have prevented them, and the culpable neglect they imply, compels a common censure that impairs the brilliancy of the Schutzenfest record.

It is not lamentable, the ignorance of British statesmen and ministers concerning our Colony? A few years ago the cachinnatory organs of British Columbia were excited by the declaration of the Duke of Newcastle (then Colonial Secretary) in the House of Commons, that San Juan Island, was located some hundreds of miles distant from the mainland; and only a few days since I find the Duke of Argyll, who presided at the Cyrus Field dinner, while responding to a sentiment flashed over the wires by Governor Seymour, addressing his Excellency as 'the Governor of Victoria, Vancouver Island.' His Grace, no doubt, imagines our 'Victoria' to be a colony of Vancouver Island, just as Victoria of Australia, is a colony of that country. For fear you may not have received either the congratulatory telegram or the response, here they are: [Already published.]

WILLIS' ROOMS, July 1, 1868. His Grace the Duke of Argyll, Earl of G. H. Mumford, San Francisco.—Columbia joins heartily in the cheers with which the toast 'Cyrus Field' will be received. We owe much to the telegraph. Three days' news from England; instantaneous communication with gold mines six hundred miles distant, thus our strength is virtually doubled. Weather fine here. Mines and farms flourishing. Wages high. Revenue improving. FREDERICK SEYMOUR, Governor.

WILLIS' ROOMS, July 1, 1868. His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, Vancouver Island:—I am President of a banquet of upwards of three hundred English gentlemen met to pay a homage of respect to Mr. Cyrus Field, of New York, for his exertions in promoting the laying of the Atlantic cable. Its success enables the Old World now to talk to the New and we shall be gratified to find that English colonists, divided from us by thousands of miles, are ready to join in so worthy a compliment to an American citizen, and ask you to drink his good health. American Statesmen propose to make a

Reciprocity Treaty with Prince Edward Island, one of the two Maritime Provinces that remain out of the Confederacy. American fishermen, it appears, are to have free access to the fishing banks, and in return, certain of the products of the Island will be admitted to the United States duty free. The game is a clever one, but the treaty will not be ratified by the Imperial Government, for by admitting Jonathan to a free run of the fisheries he will secure all the privileges he could hope to enjoy, were he to enter into a treaty with Canada. Consequently, for his own purposes, he would "nurse" Prince Edward's (and, possibly Newfoundland) and snap his fingers at the Dominion and British Columbia. No Treaty of Reciprocity will be suffered to be made that does not include the Dominion in its benefits, although I am quite sure the Dominion will be allowed to enter into an agreement of the kind, without reference being had to the interests of either of the recalcitrant Maritime Provinces or to British Columbia, should they remain without the pale of the Dominion when the time comes for the ratification of the treaty before Congress—Doubtless the telegraph will have informed you that a resolution to tax the interest of United States bonds at the rate of ten percent per annum, has passed the House of Representatives. This resolution, although without effect except it receives the sanction of the Senate, which it is not likely to get, has caused a great fluttering among the bond holders, who were induced to invest their funds therein upon the express understanding that they should be exempt from taxation. The proposition which certainly amounts to a breach of the national faith ("public faith and honor") emanates from 'Beast' Butler, a man who is hated more North and South by all classes than any public man ever before the country—Butler also proposes to pay off the national debt in greenbacks which are at a discount of 40 cents on the dollar. This last proposition stirs up the bile of Bev. Ward Beecher, the Spurgeon of America, who on last Sunday evening, before a congregation of 5000 persons, and with the thermometer standing at 95° warmed up as follows over the proposition. His text was "Thou shalt not steal." "I regard the refusal of the pay of these United States in gold or silver as being, in every disguise and under every possible plea, an atrocious theft; and I pronounce that man, either by mistake or intentionally, a thief who does it or attempts to procure the doing of it. It is an attempt to make this nation a vast, thieving body. [Applause.] It is not an accusation that can be laid against one party or the other. There are thieves in both parties that are clamorous for this national repudiation. This is a crime that I think would not have its parallel even among knaves. It is a sort of man smothered with patriotism and varnished with piety to do the wickedest thing. [Sensation.] A pickpocket would not steal the medicine away from a physician who was healing his own mother. But, while men in the nation's hour of extremity and peril lent their aid, it is now proposed that we shall pick their pockets and steal from them. It is a thing for which there were no titles monstrous enough. It is a thing that every man who has a conscience or a particle of honor ought to hiss at and spew at. It is a shame that the Church—that is so loud against dancing and card-playing—has not a word to say against national robbery, national dishonor, and national dishonesty."

TRANSPLANTING BY NIGHT.—The following statement discloses a fact of the greatest importance to horticulturists and gardeners. By this means a gentleman's grounds can be easily made to bear the appearance of a twenty years growth: A gentleman, anxious to ascertain the effect of transplanting at night instead of in the day, made an experiment with the following result:—He transplanted ten cherry trees while in bloom, commencing at four o'clock in the afternoon, and transplanted one each hour, until one in the morning. Those transplanted during the day shed their blossoms, producing little or no fruit, while those planted during the darker portions maintained their condition fully. He did the same with ten dwarf pear trees; after the fruit was one-third grown. Those transplanted during the day shed their fruit; those transplanted during the night perfected their crop, and showed no injury from having been removed. With each of these trees he removed some earth with the roots. That incident is fully vouched for, and, if a few more similar experiments produce the same result, it will be a strong argument to horticulturists, gardeners, and fruit growers to do such work entirely at night.

A VERY MERCIFUL JURY.—At the Durham Sessions on Monday, Ann Calder and Ann Mooney were indicted for stealing 7s. the moneys of William Templeman, at South Shields. At the close of the evidence the prisoners pleaded guilty, when the jury began to consult among themselves, and, to the astonishment of the Court, they returned a verdict of "Not Guilty." The attention of the jury was then drawn by the Bench to the fact that the prisoners had pleaded guilty, and had also been previously convicted. The jury, however, adhered to their verdict, and the prisoners were accordingly discharged.—English Paper.

By Electric. SPECIAL TO THE DAILY. Eastern. CHICAGO, Aug 17.—F. tions generally, it is be circles, that both the E Ministers believe war breaking out between ernments.

New York, Aug 17.—Cruz say Romero had a and resumed his duties Treasury. A reinforced to Adorno (?) who is op grete. Cortina refused bellion. The Trade courting a European against American influ The Colony of Barba cause some members of there are Fenians.

Telegraphic advices of the let, state that fealed at Baynes an taken prisoners, among who was shot by his. WASHINGTON, Aug tween the United States ratified by the Senate, to the Chinese Govern therefore ratification of, mediately be exchange.

New York, Aug. 1 yellow fever are repor WASHINGTON, Aug foundation for the run war between France French Legation rega absurd. The Rega received no informatio events.

LONDON, Aug 17.—cently appointed min Washington and memb for the United States steamer Cuba.

BERLIN, Aug 17.—which left Bergen, No ing expedition to the N on 23rd June in lat. 4 ing due north; the see CONSTANTINOPLE, A ragut accompanied by of the United States, the Sultan last week, of compliments and g jesty informed the Ad Franklin would be per the Dardanelles to C the Admiral so desira. ambassador at Const Admiral Farragut and fleet at a grand banque sian Legation.

LONDON, Aug 17.—son, American Ministe to-day from Southamp LONDON, Aug 17, meeting of the Tory Palace this evening, red declaring the dete Church and Consistat

PARIS, Aug. 18.—among the promotion pointsments decreed his fete day. Count Minister to the Charles etc une of State and private S peror, and M. Aug physician, made Seme M. Bon, S. Dilen ar dine vice Consuls of as Chevaliers of the The election of m Legislatif for the resulted in the success date of the opposition Hunte official candid ment.

European mail following. The I nounce the death whose name was among scientific m hemispheres. It is rumored th decided upon return general election. Napoleon subscri toward the memoria dentown. The Opinions Na Alfee, of Russia, United States is o the American and closer into relation Garibaldi has wr ters which appear of fierce impotence. I shall believe ev freedom, when I